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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE GROUP

INTELLIGENCE REPORT

COUNTRY France

DATE 1A

SUBJECT Formation of a Gaullist Party

DIST. 28 March 1947

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PAGES 2

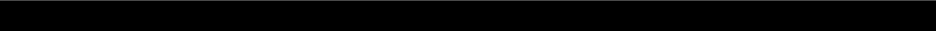
ORIGIN

SUPPLEMENT


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1. Committees are being formed in all French towns to prepare a campaign for a new party to be called "Rassemblement des Francais" (French Rally), which is to be headed by de Gaulle. All parties except the Communist and the Parti Republicain de la Liberte (PRL) will be included.

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2.  Maritimes Committee whose secretary general is Alexandre Zruchi (or Truchi). The Committee decided to start a publicity and recruiting campaign right after the 30 March speech of General de Gaulle in Bruneval. This speech, which will accompany the laying of a cornerstone of a monument to the first British Canadian Commando raid on the French coast, is expected to have considerable political significance. Its text is to be posted throughout France alongside the text of the famous June 1940 speech.

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3.  military personnel at the meeting said they would try to insure public order during the recruiting campaign of the Rassemblement des Francais in case of Communist-inspired disorders.

4. Backers of the movement declare that General de Gaulle "will ride to power legally" helped by repeated Government crises.
 Comment: While there is much speculation in all quarters concerning de Gaulle's Bruneval speech, it appears improbable that the General, at a purely military Franco-British commemorative ceremony, will raise internal political issues, or will announce his intention to return to active political life. Such announcements undoubtedly would produce unfavorable reactions.)

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5. Chiefs of other French resistance networks, operated by the British, are extremely dubious of de Gaulle's motives in consenting to make his first public appearance at a ceremony to which they were invited, in view of his open distaste for persons whom he terms "agents of foreign powers". They suspect that his sudden change of heart indicates that something is brewing.
6. Several of these chiefs of networks may stay away from Bruneval. They say they do not wish to serve by their presence the undefined purposes of de Gaulle.

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7. [REDACTED] indications show a steady decline in de Gaulle's prestige, even among his former sympathizers. Source believes that the situation is not sufficiently critical for public opinion now to accept his return. Many persons say that in case of a severe crisis, General Jacques Leclerc is far better suited as a French leader than General de Gaulle.

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8. [REDACTED] information that Henri Dastier recently started to organize the "Parti Liberte des Francais" as a Gaullist political group paralleling the Rassemblement des Gauches. [REDACTED] Comment: This is probably another report on the Rassemblement des Francais, which would become a superparty groupement rather than a group seeking to compete with other parties of the center.)

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9. [REDACTED] political circles now are highly agitated over de Gaulle's actions. They speak of a military coup d'etat and especially of a corresponding political action. The General now is living in Paris, despite a rumor that says the Government forbade him to reside in the capital. The speech on the ninth [REDACTED] Comment: This reference probably is made to the Strasbourg speech mentioned in the New York Times which is to commemorate on 7 April the liberation of Alsace.) is expected to be an appeal for an amnesty and a rallying call for all Frenchmen. [REDACTED] ex-Vichy circles are becoming agitated. A.E. Amaury, leading French newspaperman, forecasts the creation of a large Gaullist party. [REDACTED] not believe it is realistic to speak of a Gaullist plot. He says that all the agitation and present trouble in official circles merely demonstrates the weakness of the Government

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